

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for exchanging data between a first functional unit and a second functional unit, comprising the following steps acts:

[[ -]] in a first handshake procedure, exchanging data is exchanged corresponding to a communication thread (TID) selected by the first functional unit (I), while independently;

[[ -]] while independently in a second handshake procedure, exchanging information relating to a status of at least one communication thread is exchanged from the second (T) to the first functional unit (I); and

characterized in that,

based on the information relating to the status, anticipating by enables the first functional unit (I) to anticipate the a

possibility of exchanging data the for at least one communication thread;

wherein the information is indicative for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least one communication thread can be handled.

2. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, wherein the information is indicative for the a filling degree of a buffer reserved for the at least one communication thread.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Processing A processing system comprising a first functional unit and a second functional unit, the processing system being arranged to exchange data corresponding to a communication thread (TID)—selected by the first functional unit (I)—in a first handshake procedure, while independently exchanging information relating to a status of at least one communication thread from the second (T)—to the first functional unit (I)—in a second handshake procedure,

~~characterized in that,~~

wherein the information enables the first functional unit (I)  
to anticipate the possibility of exchanging data for the at least  
one communication thread, and wherein the information is indicative  
for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at  
least one communication thread can be handled.

5. (Currently Amended) Processing The processing system  
according to claim 4, further comprising a plurality of functional  
units in a network, the processing system being arranged to  
transmit data and a communication thread identifier for said data  
according to a split protocol along a communication path from a  
source functional unit (SFU) to a destination functional unit (DFU)  
via one or more intermediate functional units (IFU), including a  
first functional unit and a second functional unit.